

Appl. No. 10/707,274  
Reply to FINAL Office Action Mailed 03-19-2007

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**REMARKS**

Claims 31-37 and 61 are pending in the present application. Claims 31-37 and 61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e), as being anticipated by Chen, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,933,726). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection based on Chen.

Applicants maintain, and incorporate herein, the arguments submitted with the previous Response to Office Action that the pending claims are not taught or suggested by Chen. Chen does not teach or suggest a *sleeve assembly* and, more particularly, an *electrode*, having the physical attributes recited in claim 31 and/or positioned in a hole as recited in claim 31. Referring again to FIG. 8 of Chen, item 52 is a contact assembly that is disposed outside of the sleeve 12 and, thus, not within sleeve 12. Furthermore, the contact assembly is not disposed within a hole or channel in sleeve 12, which hole or channel extends from the outer surface of the sleeve to the inside surface of the sleeve. The contact assembly 52 and its multiple parts are, in fact, disposed within a spacer 53 positioned between the mandrel 51 and the sleeve 12. The contact assembly 52 is, therefore, not an electrode positioned as recited in claim 1.

On the other hand, item 12 (in Chen) is, indeed, an electrode 12 positioned within sleeve 11 (*i.e.*, between the outer surface of the sleeve and the inner surface of the sleeve) and further, within a "sleeve hole" of sleeve 11. The electrode 12 does not have, however, an identifiable external section and a base section, wherein the external section is larger than the base section, as recited in claim 1. Applicants note again that items 52a and 52b are parts of the contact assembly 52 (not the electrode 12). Moreover, contact assembly 52 is positioned within the contact spacer 53 (not within the sleeve 11). The contact assembly 52 cannot, therefore, be a base section of an electrode that is positioned within a sleeve hole as recited in claim 31.

Accordingly, claim 31 and each of dependent claims 32-37, and 61, are patentable over the cited references. Applicant notes that the primary distinctions (between the claimed invention and Chen) are embodied by the "electrode" (not the "hole") and, how the electrode is positioned relative to the sleeve and the hole within the sleeve. Applicants admit that Chen discloses a sleeve and a hole through the sleeve. Chen fails to teach the claimed electrode, however.

In an effort to facilitate examination, applicants propose amending claim 31 to further highlight the distinctions between the claimed "sleeve assembly" and the various components of Chen that have been cited, or referred to, in the Office Action. The Amendment makes clear

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that the sleeve hole extends only in the sleeve and that the electrode and its components are disposed between the outer surface of the sleeve and the inner surface of the sleeve.

In view of the foregoing, the claims pending in the application are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the application to issue.

No fee is believed to be due at this time. If another appropriate Petition is required, this statement shall serve as Applicants' Petition to the USPTO. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayments related to this Response to Deposit Account No. 190610 (20.2894US), maintained by Schlumberger Technology Corporation.

The undersigned is available for consultation at any time, if the Examiner believes such consultation may expedite the resolution of any issues.

Date:

05/19/2007

Respectfully submitted,



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